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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the Leader of
the Opposition

9 November 1989

Dear Paul Barbara,

I have received a letter from Carmel Budiardjo of the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign concerning your protest against the Indonesian invasion and the abuse of human rights in East Timor.

We support the right of self-determination for the people of East Timor and call for the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 of 1960. We do this in the knowledge that Resolution 1514 declared its policy quite clearly on the subject of decolonisation: all peoples have the right to self determination: by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status; and the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights; is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation.

Ann Clwyd MP, Labour Member of Parliament for Cynon Valley, was one of seven British Parliamentarians who visited East Timor in March this year. In a statement to the UN Decolonisation Committee in New York on 14 August 1989 Ann Clwyd urged the Committee to consider the following conditions under which a plebiscite might be held:

...2

a) The cessation of hostilities between Indonesia and the forces of resistance, three months in advance of the plebiscite.

b) Strict internation supervision by a team appointed by the UN and including representatives of the Portuguese Government.

c) Withdrawal of all Indonesian troops.

d) Indonesian civilians in the territory should not be permitted to take part in the plebiscite.

e) Universal suffrage.

We deplore the abuse of human rights in East Timor and will continue to call for an end of such abuse and the release of all political prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Kinnock

NEIL KINNOCK MP

Mr Paul Barbara
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